THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Defence Cooperation between India and Australia is being strengthened through an institutionalised mechanism of Indo-Australia strategic dialogue. The first round of this dialogue was held in August, 2001 and the 2nd round in March, 2003. Defence cooperation between India and Australia is also being progressed through joint naval exercises and exchange of officers in defence training establishments of both countries.

Bharat Electronics Ltd.

1065. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bharat Electronics Ltd., is posed to become Rs. 5,000 crore PSU;

(b) if so, what are its past achievements and future plans; and

(c) its achievements in the export field during the year 2002-2003 and expected future growth in the current fiscal?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir. Bharat Electronics Ltd. has worked out an internal "Vision Plan" to become a Rs. 5,000 crore company by the year 2007.

(b) BEL meets a variety of requirements of the Defence Services in the areas of Radars, Sonars, Communication Equipment and Systems, SATCOM, Tank Electronics, Electronic Warfare Equipment etc., meeting stringent Defence specifications with the assurance of lifetime product support. The turnover of the Company during the year 2002-2003 was Rs. 2527 crores. The Company expects to achieve a growth target of 20% during the year 2003-2004 and a minimum of 15% growth every year thereafter. It is expected to play a significant role in development of future electronic warfare equipment.

(c) The exports achieved during the year 2002-2003 were of the order of Rs. 48 crore while the target under the Memorandum of

Understanding entered into with the Government of India (Ministry of Defence) for the year 2003-2004, is Rs. 48.40 crore.

Hide-outs militants in neighbouring countries

1066. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps the Central Government contemplate to take in regard to the hide-outs of the militants of the North-Eastern States in the neighbouring countries.

(b) whether the Central Government have any plan to persuade the extremist groups to surrender; and

(c) the extent of success made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SWAMI CHINMAYANAND) : (a) The Government has already taken up the matter with the Governments of Bangladesh, Bhuttan and Myanmar. They have assured that they will not allow negative elements to use their territory for activities prejudicial to the interests of india.

(b) and (c) The Government has been implementing the scheme for surrender-cum-rehabilitation of North Eastern militants since 1.4.1998. The Government of India provides 100% reimbursement for expenditure incurred on rehabilitation of surrenderees. During the last 3 years (upto 30.6.2003) 1418 number of militants have surrendered in the North Eastern States.

Measures for prevention of communal riots

1067. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:
SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the communal flare-ups of severe nature are on the rise in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the number of such incidents during the last three years with details of life and property lost in each incident;